

Remediation of Contaminated Soils in California

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California Communities Against Toxics

What types of Contaminated Soils are disposed of in California?

- ▶ **Petroleum Contaminated Soils**
- ▶ **Metals Contaminated Soils**
- ▶ **Radioactive Contaminated Soils**
- ▶ **Soils with Mixed Contaminants**
- ▶ **Soils with Solvents, Dioxins, or PCBs**

What have communities done in the past with contaminated soils?

- ▶ Fought to keep them onsite
- ▶ Buried them onsite
- ▶ Shipped them offsite to other states
- ▶ Shipped them offsite to California landfills
- ▶ Burned them onsite
- ▶ Burned them offsite

What would an ideal future look like?

- ▶ Separating the contaminants from the soils
 - ▶ Use heat
 - ▶ Using solvents
 - ▶ Using geophysical means
- ▶ Being able to recapture and reuse the metals and completely destroy the petroleum and chemicals in the soil

What holds us back from doing the right thing?

- ▶ Inability to assess the efficacy of advanced technologies which could dramatically reduce the amounts of contaminated soils disposed of in California.
- ▶ Lack of transparency at DTSC on how decisions are made on the disposal of contaminated soils.
- ▶ Lack of support for more permanent solutions by the Responsible Parties: the cheapest cost option in the short term drives the decisions.
- ▶ State does not push back forcefully on the options presented by the responsible parties.

What would systemic solutions to the problem look like?

- ▶ Increase competency of DTSC project managers to truly assess the options available for soil remediation
- ▶ Increase the transparency of the decisions made on the disposal of contaminated soils
- ▶ Create more land disposal restrictions for contaminants in soils

Conclusions and Recommendations

► To think about:

- California Science Policy-what should California do to reduce the footprint of its hazardous waste generation?
- What is the best way to examine the capabilities of advanced treatment technologies for the treatment of hazardous soils and waste?

► To do:

- Increase the transparency of decision-making on contaminated soils.
- Increase the competency of DTSC project managers to assess technologies which result in the reduction of soils disposed of.
- Find ways to involve the public in the decisions the DTSC makes on contaminated soils specifically, and site remediation more generally.